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Office Of The Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Feb. 15, 1994.

Dear Commissioner:

I am in favor of PR Docket No. 93-305, the so-called "vanity" amateur radio call sign rule change for several reasons. In the spirit of President Clinton's desire to make government do more for it's citizens by allowing them more privileges while not creating more work for it's employees or be more of a burden on the general taxpayers.

With the Private Radio Bureau's Licensing Division's new automated licensing process, this plan would proceed smoothly and efficiently with it's added capabilities.

We amateurs take great personal pride in our call signs. We know each other often by our call first and name second. This program would be very popular to the amateur community. We appreciate the great variety of privileges given to us by the Federal Communications Commission and are extremely thankful that were allowed such a usefull service and hobby. This program would be very popular to the amateur community. We appreciate the great variety of privileges given to us by the Federal Communications Commission and are extremely thankful that were allowed such a usefull service and hobby. This program couldreward those amateurs who have been licensed for extended periods of time. Those amateurs have been so enthusia-

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stic about this hobby that they have worked to achieve the higher classes of licenses.

It's a good idea to allow ten call signs to be given for consideration with the calls listed in order of preference. However, it would be very beneficial to provide, possibly for a fee, the list of calls in a given block as designated by license class that are available in the pool.

I recommend a reuse of the system that worked so well in 1976 and 1977, which was based on a seniority system. That system used windows of eligibility, spaced a few months apart, before being opened up to all Amateur Extra Class Licensees.

It's been 16 years since amateur radio operators have been able to choose their own calls. Since then there has been an explosion in the number of new hams. In my case, as well as with many of my fellow amateurs, there has been a dramatic increase in incentive licensing (upgrading license class) and we were not eligible to enjoy this aspect of amateur radio service when it was still available. Unfortunately, I had not yet passed my Amateur Extra Class exams by that time.

I've been licensed for almost 22 years and have enjoyed the benefits of having the Amateur Extra Class license for nearly 14 years. I have stayed extremely active in this hobby and have remained persistent enough to have contacted every country in the world.

There are plenty of desirable calls that are unused for a

variety of reasons and there are almost 15 million possible combinations of letters and numbers for amateur station call signs. That could be a great source of revenue that would easily pay any minor costs involved in instituting this system and no doubt create a bit of profit as well. There are currently 630,000 amateurs in the United States. Certainly, not all of us would like to exchange our calls for a different one but I'm sure there would be a great deal of interest. The cost charged to the amateur could be such that the more popular calls might cost a little more.

The entire concept is quite interesting and I think it will be well received by the amateurs. All the hams I've spoken with have been very interested in the idea. I congratulate the Federal Communications Commission's new Chairman, Mr. Reed Hundt, and thank him for reinstituting this beneficial service for its useful amateur radio operators. We hope this action proceeds rapidly and successfully.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Ackerman KJ8G
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